



## MINUTES

### Providence School Board Regular Meeting

Pursuant to Executive Order 20-25 issued by the Governor of Rhode Island, the Providence School Board held this meeting remotely. A recording is available on the Providence School Board YouTube channel at [bit.ly/pvdschoolboard](https://bit.ly/pvdschoolboard)

**August 19, 2020**

#### CONVENE MEETING

1. Call to Order – President Hemond called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call--Board Members Present: Nicholas Hemond, Travis Escobar, Muyideen Ibiyemi, Elizabeth Goldberg, Mark Santow and Kinzel Thomas.

Board Members Nina Pande and Diagneris Garcia were not in attendance.

2. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Harrison Peters welcomed new School Board Member, Dr. Elizabeth Goldberg. He noted that her skills and talents will be a great addition to the district, especially with school reopening preparations.

Superintendent Peters stated that Mayor Elorza has announced a \$160 million for new construction and \$140 million bond referendum to invest in school infrastructure. Among the announcements there will be an adaption of the newly donated St. Joseph's hospital into a much-needed new school space. The hospital is gifted from former Mayor Joseph Paolino.

The Superintendent also updated on the school reopening plans and status of Virtual Learning Academy (VLA).

Superintendent Peters thanked Board Member Kinzel Thomas for joining the video meeting to welcome principals during the School Leadership Academy. The event was prepared by Network Superintendents Susan Chin and Yinka Alege. It was a deep dive into the TNTP report, "The Opportunity Myth" —reinforcing the need to insist on grade-level instruction and the need to raise our own expectations of students' capabilities.

Superintendent Peters highlighted on a one-day virtual event on Diversity, Equity and Belonging Virtual Learning Day, which drew more than 800 educators and 50 community members. The event was organized by Chief Equity and Diversity Officer Dr. Barbara Mullen.

Edda Carmadello, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction and Services has left the position for out of state opportunity, and Dr. Mullen will be overseeing the division and acting as an interim director.

### APPROVE AGENDA

3. Approve Agenda  
**A motion was made to approve the agenda**  
**MSV – Santow, Thomas (6-0) MOTION APPROVED**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Public Comment-Right to Be Heard  
Becki Marcus, Nonviolence Institute, commented in support of Counselors Not Cops

Ilse Jenouri, parent of a PPSD student, commented on information surrounding Virtual Learning Academy that lack of clear information was problematic, and expressed concerns that students would have to disconnect from their former schools.

Kara Lorenz, PPSD employee-school behavior teacher, sent written comment on the reopening plan, and urged the district to follow Warwick's lead to return to 100% distance learning.

Maribeth Calabro, Providence Teachers Union, commented on concerns related to Edgenuity contract for the Virtual Learning Academy.

Erica Lambert, parent of a PPSD student, commented on school reopening data.

### SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

5. School Board Comments  
President Hemond welcomed Dr. Elizabeth Goldberg aboard. He requested that Superintendent respond to earlier public comments.

Santow also welcomed Dr. Goldberg as part of the team. He responded to Ms. Marcus regarding "Counselors Not Cops."

Goldberg expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome. She has shared insights on the reopening plan, and operational challenges related to COVID-19. She is inspired by the efforts of district's staff.

### REPORT ON CONTRACTS

6. Teach for America
7. Edgenuity, Inc.
8. SchoolKit
9. Great Minds-In Sync
10. American Reading Company with Rhode Island Department of Education (Amendment)
11. Rosetta Stone (Language Immersion) Amendment
12. McGraw-Hill Education (Amendment)
13. Food Services Contract Renewal – Sodexo
14. SONITROL option year
15. First Student Contract Extension  
**A motion was made to approve items six to 15 as one vote.**  
**MSV – Ibiyemi, Thomas (6-0) MOTION APPROVED**

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

16. Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(9) Level B Grievances

**There was no executive session entered as grievances have been resolved or continued.**

**REPORT EXECUTIVE SESSION**

17. Report on Executive Session Votes - There were no votes to report as item 16 was not entered.

**ADJOURN**

18. Adjourn Meeting

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.**

**MSV- Thomas, Santow (6-0) MOTION APPROVED**